

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

artisan government of the *Riformatori*, or *fofolo del maggior numero*, in Siena.¹

In the meanwhile, the Dodicini and the Salimbeni, who had instigated the rising for their own advantage and were naturally disappointed at the results, sent agents to the Emperor to implore his aid. Charles was now on his way back from **Rome**. On December 22, with the Empress, he entered Siena, "all armed save the head," with an imposing array of imperial troops, and alighted, as before, at the Palazzo Salimbeni. A few days later, the Cardinal Guy of Boulogne, a warlike French prelate whom the Emperor had made imperial vicar-general in all Tuscany, arrived at Siena with reinforcements. The adherents of the Twelve hailed him as a possible ecclesiastical despot to overthrow their enemies. Charles demanded the surrender into his hands of the towns and fortresses of Massa, Montalcino, Grosseto, Talamone, and Casole, with the intention of handing them over to the Cardinal. The Defenders summoned a council of more than eight hundred citizens, and returned a practically unanimous refusal. Neither would they make any fresh modification of their constitution at the Bohemian Caesar's bidding. The Noves-chi and the populace alike were prepared to end the crisis by recalling the exiled nobles.

On the morning of January 18, 1369, there arose a sudden clamour through the streets of Siena : " Long live the People," " Death to the traitors who want the nobles back!" Led by Niccolo Salimbeni and his allies of the Dodicini, armed bands rushed through each *terzo* of the city, sacking and slaying as they went, while two other Salimbeni, Pietro and Cione, entered the Palace with their followers. The whole thing had been prearranged with the imperial authorities. Malatesta brought his soldiery into the Campo and called upon the Defenders, in the name of the Emperor, to expel their colleagues of the Nine. Summoned by the Salimbeni, Charles himself mounted, and moved towards the Palace with three thousand horsemen.

¹ Cf. O. Malavolti, *Historia de Sanest*, pp. 132, 1320.